THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 29th March 1947.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—STATEMENT *RE* NEW MINISTERS.

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, before we begin the proceedings of the House, I have got to make an announcement for the information of the hon. Members. The Madras Council of Ministers has been increased by five more members. They are: The Hon. Sri A. B. Shetty, the Hon. Sri Kala Venkata Rao, the Hon. Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiyar, the Hon. Sri V. Kurmayya and the Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas. Their respective departments have already been published and if any hon. Member wants any further information on this subject, I shall be very glad to give him."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I am sure the House will welcome the new team as also the old Ministers who came into existence a few days back and I am sure the House would feel highly gratified that three of its members are on the Cabinet. I wish them Godspeed."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Who is the Leader of the House, Sir?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" My humble self has been asked to be the Leader of the House."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Why the Hon. Sri Madhava Menon has resigned his leadership of the House?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" May I inform the hon. Member that Hon. Sri Madhava Menon was never the Leader of the House."

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Re-employment of retired persons.

* 115 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the services of all retired officials, either re-entertained for a definite period or given extension of service, have all been terminated;

(*b*) whether there are any still in service whose retention has been considered necessary for special reasons and, if so, what they are and what the reasons for extension are; and

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(c) whether, before such extensions are granted, efforts are made to secure officers with the same or similar qualifications either by promotion or direct recruitment?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (a) The answer is in the negative.

" (b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative.

As regards the second part the reasons for the extensions of service or re-employment are generally paucity of suitable and qualified candidates for appointment or promotion in the ordinary course. As to who the persons are that have been re-employed or granted extensions of service, in the interests of economy in stationery and printing a list of such persons has not been printed and placed on the table of the House. If the hon. Member wants it, he may obtain a list on application to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

" (c) Generally such efforts are made."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" From what the Hon. Minister has stated it looks that this list appears to be a formidable one. Will the Government take immediate steps to stop extension of service or re-employment of the retired officers? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The Government are always prepared to do that, but there are circumstances under which we are not able to put the whole of that policy into practice. It is, as I have said, due to paucity of suitable men for the post and in these days when service conditions have become so very competitive and enormously enlarged, it is certainly very difficult to procure the right kind of men. The Government have not however given up the idea of not engaging or re-engaging people who have become superannuated."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether the time has not come to retire all superannuated officers in view of the fact that there are many educated unemployed and more and more graduates are being produced every year? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir, the time has come but we have to run the Government and the suitability of the candidates has got to be ascertained before they are taken in. In view of this fact a few of the superannuated people are being retained to carry on the administration and these also will be retired as soon as possible."

MR. K. O. ANTHONI :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Special Officer for Departmental Enquiries is one of those whose services are absolutely necessary to be continued? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" That is a more detailed question which I am not prepared to answer as there are more than about 150 or 200 people still in service of whom about 15 or 20 are Gazetted officers and there are a great number of non-gazetted men in the service. This specific question will have to be gone into before I can find an answer."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I remember the hon. Mr. Prakasam laid on the table of the House a Government Order saying that in the view of the Government no such extension should be given and still we are told there are 150 re-employed officers in service. Will the Government give an undertaking that they will examine each case and see that the Government Order is given effect to?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I have already given an indication as to the policy of this Government in this matter. It will not be fair to send away all these people home one fine morning because the principle has been accepted. Certainly this point will be remembered by the Government and they will, as far as possible, expedite the termination of these people."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I also bring to the notice of the Government another instance. In the Local Fund Accounts one retired officer was re-employed as an Examiner of Local Fund Accounts and when he went on leave the other day they promoted an Assistant Examiner to act in that post. May I know why if the Assistant Examiner was competent to act in a leave vacancy he should not be considered competent to act in a permanent vacancy? That also has to be looked into, Sir."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" That will be examined, Sir."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it a fact that attempts are being made to re-employ certain retired high educational officers?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not know of it. We shall enquire."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that retired Muslims have particularly been excluded from re-employment?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I am not aware of this fact, Sir."

Report of the Cabinet Salaries Committee.

* 116 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to place on the table of the House the report of the Cabinet Salaries Committee, 1946, on which Madras Revised Scales of Pay Rules, 1947 (G.O. No. 78, Finance, dated 6th February 1947), have been based?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The Cabinet Salaries Committee wished that its report (on which the revised scales of pay have been based) should be treated as confidential and intended for official use only. The Government therefore regret that the report cannot be placed on the table of the House."